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Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E7

Votre loi *votre référence*

Notre loi *Notre référence*

SEP 29 1986

Ms. Denise Michaud,
Special Assistant to the Minister,
Health and Welfare Canada,
16th Floor, Brooke Claxton Building,
Tunney's Pasture,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0K9

Dear Ms. Michaud,

I am writing in reference to the recent discussion Mr. Chris Hanlon of my staff had with you concerning a request I have received from Mr. Chris Brown of the Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive (AGES).

In June, Mr. Brown and one of his colleagues from AGES briefed a number of Environment Canada officials on the concerns and objectives of AGES. Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. Brown wrote to me to request Environment Canada's financial support for the preparation of an issues brief on the non-medical factors of concern to AGES. A description of the proposal is given in the attached copy of Mr. Brown's letter to me.

Our review of the proposal concluded that the objective and scope set for the issues brief place the proposed project beyond the bounds of Environment Canada's mandate. We cannot, therefore, take the federal lead in pursuing the proposal. In our judgement, Health and Welfare Canada is the federal department best positioned to coordinate any federal government action that might be taken to address the issues of concern to AGES. I understand that Mr. Brown has been in contact with Health and Welfare Canada officials, and that your department is examining the question of environmental hypersensitivity. It is for these reasons that I am bringing Mr. Brown's proposal to your attention, with the request that it be given serious consideration.

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Should your department conclude that federal government action is warranted on this or other proposals presented by AGES or other organizations with similar objectives, I would be pleased to consider any request from Health and Welfare Canada for assistance that might be provided through my organization's programs; for example, through our work in assessing impacts of chemical substances on the natural environment.

I have conveyed the positions outlined above to Mr. Brown by letter; a copy of that letter is enclosed for your information. I have also sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Brown for his information.

As the question of environmental hypersensitivity appears to be a concern of a growing number of people, I would appreciate being kept informed of the results of your department's studies on the subject.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Original signed by
Original signé par

D.A. DAVIS

Lorette Goulet
Assistant Deputy Minister

Encl.

c.c. Mr. Chris Brown